

What is Claimed is:

1. A self-service terminal comprising:
a user interface including a plurality of user interface elements, at least one user interface element including means for detecting a user's hand in the vicinity of that element; and
means for informing the user about that element.
2. A terminal according to claim 1, wherein the informing means includes means for referencing to a type of module to describe a user interface element.
3. A terminal according to claim 2, wherein the detecting means comprises a proximity sensor.
4. A terminal according to claim 2, wherein the detecting means includes means responsive to a user touching a user interface element.
5. A terminal according to claim 1, wherein the informing means comprises a controller and a loudspeaker which is actuatable by the controller.
6. A terminal according to claim 5, wherein the controller includes pre-recorded sound files that are playable through the loudspeaker.
7. A terminal according to claim 5, wherein the controller includes a text to speech program and text files associated with the user interface elements.

8. A terminal according to claim 5, wherein the controller includes means for displaying large text on a display.

9. An automated teller machine (ATM) comprising:
an ATM customer interface including a plurality of ATM customer interface elements, at least one ATM customer interface element including means for detecting an ATM customer's hand in the vicinity of that element; and
means for informing the ATM customer about that element.

10. An ATM according to claim 9, wherein the informing means includes means for referencing to a type of module to describe an ATM customer interface element.

11. An ATM according to claim 10, wherein the detecting means comprises a proximity sensor.

12. An ATM according to claim 10, wherein the detecting means includes means responsive to an ATM customer touching an ATM customer interface element.

13. An ATM according to claim 9, wherein the informing means comprises a controller and a loudspeaker which is actuatable by the controller.

14. An ATM according to claim 13, wherein the controller includes pre-recorded sound files that are playable through the loudspeaker.

15. An ATM according to claim 13, wherein the controller includes a text to speech program and text files associated with the ATM customer interface elements.

16. An ATM according to claim 13, wherein the controller includes means for displaying large text on a display.

17. A method of informing a user of a self-service terminal about a user interface element included in that terminal, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a user's hand in the vicinity of a user interface element; and
informing the user about that user interface element.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the informing step includes the steps of:

detecting which user interface element the user's hand is in the vicinity of;
selecting an audio file associated with that element; and
playing the audio file.

19. A method according to claim 17, wherein the informing step includes the step of:

referencing to a type of module to describe the user interface element.

20. A method according to claim 17, wherein the informing step includes the step of:

displaying large text on a display.

FOOTNOTES

21. A method according to claim 17, wherein the detecting step includes the step of:
- detecting the user's hand touching the user interface element.